

REMARKS

The Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for thoroughly reviewing and considering the application. The Official Action dated June 16, 2004 has been received and carefully reviewed. Claims 1-3 have been amended and new claims 5-20 have been added. No new matter has been added. Claims 1-20 are currently pending. Reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

The Official Action objected to claims 1-3 for the informalities discussed therein. As noted above, claims 1-3 have been amended and the Applicant submits that claims 1-3 overcome the objections. The Applicant therefore requests that the Examiner withdraw the objection.

In addition, the Official Action rejected claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Figure 3 of the Applicant's Related Art (hereinafter "ARA") in view of U.S. Patent No. 1,491,555 to *Shanks* (hereinafter "*Shanks*"). The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

As required in Chapter 2143.03 of the M.P.E.P., in order to "establish *prima facie* obviousness of the claimed invention, all the limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art." The Applicant respectfully submits that neither the ARA nor *Shanks*, either singularly or in combination, disclose each and every element recited in claim 1. In particular, claim 1 recites a clothes dryer including, among other features, "a plurality of air holes in a bottom of a base adjacent a front area of an inlet side of a mixing pipe, the base forming a bottom of the clothes dryer." As correctly pointed out in the Official Action, the ARA does not disclose a plurality of air holes in a base in a front area of an inlet side of a mixing pipe. See Official Action at page 2. Likewise, *Shanks* does not disclose a clothes dryer having a plurality of holes in a bottom of a base adjacent a front area of an inlet side of a mixing pipe, as claimed.

The Official Action points to a plurality of air holes 22. See Official Action at page 2. However, as may be clearly seen with reference to Figures 1-4 of *Shanks*, the plurality of air holes 22 are disposed in side walls, not in the bottom of a base as required by claim 1. See page 1, lines 90-91 of *Shanks*.

Furthermore, *Shanks* does not disclose air holes adjacent a front area of an inlet side of a mixing pipe, as evinced by the fact that the air flows through and around several structures before flowing into the mixing pipe. Specifically, *Shanks* states that the air required for combustion is drawn through a vent chamber 25. See page 2, lines 110-115. The air then flows over and around a radiator flue and inclined deflectors. Clearly, the air holes are not adjacent the front area of an inlet side of a mixing pipe. Accordingly, the Applicant submits that neither the ARA nor *Shanks*, singularly or in combination, disclose all the features of claim 1, and respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection. Likewise, claim 2 is patentable over the cited references for at least the reasons discussed above.

The Applicant has also added new claim 4 which claims a clothes dryer having among other features, "a plurality of holes in [a] bottom of the clothes dryer where the plurality of holes are adjacent [a] mixing pipe inlet such that air travels directly from the plurality of holes into the mixing pipe inlet." As discussed above, the ARA nor *Shanks*, singularly or in combination, disclose a plurality of holes adjacent a mixing pipe inlet. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully submits that new claim 4 is also patentable over the ARA in view of *Shanks*.

The Official Action also rejected claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Figure 3 of the ARA in view of *Shanks* as applied to claims 1 and 2 above and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 1,799,649 to *Schenk* (hereinafter "*Schenk*"). The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection and requests reconsideration. As discussed above, neither the ARA nor *Shanks* disclose all the features of claims 1 and 2. Likewise, *Schenk* does not address

the shortcomings of the ARA and *Shanks*, namely a clothes dryer having a plurality of holes in a bottom of a base adjacent a front area of an inlet side of a mixing pipe. Therefore, the Applicant submits that the ARA in view of *Shanks* and further in view of *Schenk* does not disclose all the elements recited in claim 3 as required under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) and requests withdrawal of the rejection.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

The Applicant hereby authorizes the Commissioner of Patents to charge any fees necessary to complete this filing, including any fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary Extension of Time to make the filing of the attached documents timely, or credit any overpayment in fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Further, if these papers are not considered timely filed, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for the necessary extension of time.

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Respectfully submitted,

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